THE

AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

DEVOTED TO THE ENLARGEMENT AND PERFECTION OF HOME.

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WHAT THE PAPER IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT.

THE sub-heading under the title tells in as few words as possible what the AMERICAN SOCIALIST *is;* but to see how the object proposed in that sub-heading permeates vast varieties of discussion and information on Communism, Coöperation and all connected themes, political and religious, the paper itself must be read. To show what the AMERICAN SOCIALIST is *not*, we quote a passage from a letter received from a Shaker of very high standing in his order—in fact, a member of the Ministry. After reading the paper a year, he says: "I see that some are misled, as I was a year ago, in supposing the AMERICAN SOCIALIST to be the organ of the Oneida Community. It seems to me now to be no more the organ of that body than though the O. C. had no existence. I have perused it with some care the past year, and find it, among all the Socialistic organs, without a peer."

A COMMUNISTIC PLAN OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The hard times crowd us all. Now and then an able-bodied man sends us a dollar and apologizes for not sending two by saying that he has been laying by that dollar, a few pennies at a time, for several weeks. On the other hand, our annual receipts do not thus far half pay for the bare cost of paper and printing, to say nothing of editorial labor. At the same time many of our subscribers are wealthy and sometimes send us more than the price of the paper. These circumstances have suggested the following plan for equalizing burdens all round: Let every person who can spare a dollar besides his regular subscription send it to us with the name of some poor person to whom he would have the SOCIALIST sent, *and we will contribute the other dollar in every case and send a full volume.* That is, we will contribute as much, in this way, as all others will send us. If the sender does not know a suitable poor person who would like to receive the paper, we will, when requested, suggest one of the many who apply to us and state his lack of means. This plan is exactly suited to the genius of Communism, which teaches those who have an abundance to help those who lack.

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THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST will in the future, as in the past, publish all well-written accounts of new Communistic and Coöperative Societies which may be offered in good faith; but it should be clearly understood that its conductors disclaim all responsibility for the character or success of such Societies. They consider that they perform their duty if they exclude schemes which are manifestly hair-brained or fraudulent and continue to set forth, as opportunity offers, the principles which seem to them to lie at the foundation of successful Socialism.

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All correspondence should be addressed to

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SOCIALISTIC NOTES.

Ruskin says: "Though England is deafened with spinning-wheels, her people have no clothes; though she is black with digging coal, her people have no fuel, and they die of cold; and though she has sold her soul for gain, they die of hunger."

"The man who could devise a mode of combining manufacturing skill with isolated labor and country residence," says Samuel Royce, author of a recently-published work, "would do a greater service to humanity than the whole race of philosophers." Communism does even better than that, Mr Royce.

In a paper on the vital statistics of Boston, prepared by S. Shattuck, we read that forty-three per cent. of all the deaths that have taken place within the last nine years are of persons under nine years of age. Per contra, in the Oneida Community which has a large flock of children, no death of a person under nine years has occurred for the last nine years.

The *Penn Monthly* for April has an article by Henry C. Adams, Ph. D., on "The Position of Socialism in the Historical Development of Political Economy," with the following introductory paragraph:

"It is certainly unfortunate that Socialism, as an economic system, should be confounded with social Democracy as a political factor and a revolutionary force. The apparent object of the latter is to increase the rate of mortality among the monarchs of Europe; the object of the former is purely scientific and economic. This confusion is unfortunate, because it places Socialism at a disadvantage before the public mind, and does not allow a candid judgment of its economic importance. What this importance is can be the most easily recognized by determining its position in the historical development of the study."

The attempt of the Russian Nihilist, Solovieff, to assassinate the Emperor of Russia cannot be too severely condemned. It was the height of folly and wickedness, and will injure most seriously the cause which it was intended to serve. But journals like the New York *Nation* and Boston *Commonwealth*, in inquiring for its prime cause, find it in the extreme rigor of the Russian Government; and the latter says: "These outbreaks in the despotism of the old world once more make us acknowledge that our fathers builded right when they trusted all grief to the judgment of the great body of the people. The nearer the crowned heads get to letting their subjects tell the story of their wrongs freely to all who will hear, the better it will be for their peace of mind, and the surer for the stability of their governments."

From a recent pamphlet entitled "*Corporation and Taxation:*"

"Whence do such colossal fortunes arise? They exceed immeasurably the legitimate production of a single life, however successful, and are gathered only by levying in direct tribute on each man in the community—tapping each citizen's pocket just as a river takes the waters of the streams along its banks. Their secret power stands watch at the head springs of legislation and public administration, and works with all the efficiency of a vast system backed up by money—not only molding the statutes which regulate the charges to be paid to them by the community, but also the statutes and the administration of the statutes, whereby they procure this charity of exemption from taxes. This subject concerns deeply every man in the community, except the few who share the fruits of such maladministration. It concerns the owner of property which is taxed all the higher on account of these exemptions, and the tenant whose rent is increased by such taxation. It concerns the professional man, the merchant, the mechanic, the farmer, and the laborer."

"In the matter of taxation, there are to-day four men, representing the four great trunk lines between Chicago, and New York, who possess, and who not infrequently exercise, powers which the Congress of the United States would not venture to exert. They may at any time, and for any reason satisfactory to themselves, by a single stroke of the pen, reduce the value of property in this country by hundreds of millions of dollars. An additional charge of 5 cents per bushel on the transportation of cereals would have been equivalent to a tax of forty-five millions of dollars on the crop of 1873. No Congress would dare to exercise so vast a power except upon a necessity of the most imperative nature; and yet these gentlemen exercise it whenever it suits their supreme will and pleasure, without explanation or apology. With the rapid and inevitable progress of combination and consolidation, these colossal organizations are daily becoming stronger and more imperious. The day is not distant, if it has not already arrived, when it will be the duty of the statesman to inquire whether there is less danger in leaving the property and industrial interests of the people thus wholly at the mercy of a few men, who recognize no responsibility but to their stockholders, and no principle of action but personal and corporate aggrandizement, than in adding somewhat to the power and patronage of a government directly responsible to the people and entirely under their control."—*Report of U. S. Senate Committee on Transportation Routes, Page* 158.

WHAT IS, AND WHAT MIGHT BE.

X.

GREAT BRITAIN. (*Continued.*)

English writers felicitate themselves and their nation on the fact that Socialism has found no foothold among them. Their self-gratulations are not, however, altogether well-founded. It is true that there is no movement in England which is called Socialistic, and that the political Socialism which is so troubling the rulers of Germany and Russia has not crossed the German ocean. But it would be a great mistake to suppose that the same general causes which are working social changes elsewhere are not also operating in Great Britain. The influences which are so active on the Continent are at work here as well; but owing to the different form and character of the government, they take on an entirely different action. The government and the people are in accord. The people do not even complain against the titled nobility and wealthy classes who constitute one-third of the population. In England the movement is entirely an economic one. The struggle is between labor and capital; or, so far as it becomes a personal or class conflict, it is between the laborers and capitalists. But it is not a warfare in which either of these classes is striving to crush out the other. Both classes recognize their need of each other; the laborers need employers with capital, and the capitalists can do nothing without hired labor. The strife between them is owing to the competition in which they are engaged. A certain branch of trade or industry produces certain profits per annum, by the united action of capital and labor. In production the interests of the two classes are one. But in distributing the gains they become hostile. What part the capitalists secure the laborers lose, and *vice versa. The quarrel is, therefore, entirely on the question of wages.*

As competition has increased year by year, English manufacturers have been forced to reduce the prices of their products. The struggle for the possession of the markets has been, and still is, a severe one. Mr. Edward Atkinson, in an article on "Cotton, from Spindle to Consumer," says: "Commerce now depends on the finest fractions. The work of nine-tenths of the spindles of Europe and America lies within the limit of half a grain in the weight of a yard of yarn spun, and the competition for the trade of the world is within the limit of half-a-cent a yard on the cloth woven." In the same strain we read of large orders being declined by British manufacturers on account of a difference of a penny a dozen in the price of door-latches and similar articles of hardware. In every department of trade competition is rapidly approaching, if it has not already reached, its lowest terms; and America, with her greater natural advantages, developed by Yankee ingenuity and shrewdness, is steadily pushing her European competitors to the wall. The English, who formerly dominated the trade of the world, feel this coming change more keenly than any other nation. Their manufacturers are now compelled to calculate in the nicest manner every element of the cost of their products. Each item must be reduced as much as possible. This necessitates a constant crowding down of the wages paid for labor.

To protect themselves from this tendency, the workingmen of every craft have organized into trades-unions. These trades-unions are a power in England. The members elect officers who act for them and enforce discipline. Each member has to pay certain fees and assessments, which go to form a common fund for their benefit. Whenever the wages of any particular craft get so low as to be unsatisfactory to the opera-

tives, the trades-union to which they belong considers the matter, sends a protest to the masters, and, in case the latter remain firm, order a strike. Thereupon every hand quits work, and the surplus fund of the union is drawn on for needed supplies while the strike lasts. It then becomes a struggle as to which party can hold out the longer, employers or employed. If trade be dull and the masters have few orders, the chances are that they will win; for the surplus fund of the union will supply the men and their families with necessary food and fuel for only a limited time. But if trade be brisk and the masters have large orders on their books, the workingmen have the advantage in many cases. The trades-unions must, therefore, choose their time shrewdly for ordering a strike. As an extreme example of what is sometimes done, it has occasionally happened to an embarrassed theatrical manager that his players and musicians would strike and notify him, just as a large audience was seated and the curtain about to rise for a performance, that they would no longer perform until paid all arrearages.

There were 181 strikes in England in 1877, and 177 in 1878. Many of them involved great numbers of laborers. In the strike of the dock-laborers in Liverpool last winter, over 6,000 men quit work at once. It was impossible to get vessels loaded for a time, and heavy losses were occasioned. A great strike is at this moment in progress among the workers in the Durham coal mines, as we learn, from the following paragraph clipped from the N. Y. *Herald*. The strike is in consequence of the masters having notified the men that a reduction of 15 per cent. would be made in their wages:

"The ballot of the Durham colliers, the results of which were only known Saturday afternoon, shows that 10,000 submit to the reduction, and 25,000 are in favor of a strike. The colliers employed at the Consett Iron Works' pit are among the strikers. Should the strike continue more than a few days these and other works will be compelled to stop."

These trade strikes are for the most part conducted in a legal manner. Occasionally an employer's buildings are burned or some personal violence done, but this is not common. It is understood that the laborers in any trade have a legal right to strike against a reduction of wages or for an increase. Such a right is probably regarded as a safety-valve to prevent more violent explosions. Yet it would be difficult to devise a plan more suicidal to the manufacturing industries of the nation. Every strike gives England's competitors an advantage. When a strike occurs mills are stopped, production is suspended, and competitors rush in and take orders, thus diverting the trade to themselves. Then the masters can only tempt buyers by again reducing prices, which in turn necessitates another reduction of wages, leading to other strikes; and so on, in a continual round of losing moves. The men, on their part, use up their hard-won accumulations during the strikes, and are thus always at the mercy of circumstances. It is reported that the Durham Miners' Association, the trades-union of the Durham colliers referred to above as having just struck again, has paid away $500,000 within a few years in out-of-work benefits, and that it is now in poor circumstances. It is difficult to tell which suffers most from this fight about wages, the capitalist or the laborer. If the two could manage to agree continually, England's manufacturing industries might be preserved for a long time yet; but under this vicious system of strikes and perpetual quarrels they are doomed.

England's agriculture is also in a critical condition. There ought to be a good market for all the products of her soil, for she has a greater population than the soil can possibly feed. More than 60 per cent. of her people are dependent on foreign food supplies. But owing to the way the land is held and farmed, which we explained last week, the crops cannot be sold at a price as low as foreign crops are offered. For example, wheat can be raised in our Western States, carried to England, and sold at a less price than the cost of wheat grown in England. This has been proved by actual figures. It is because our farmers own their farms and till the soil themselves, while in England the rent paid to the landlord by the tenant-farmer, the profits of the tenant-farmer, and the wages paid the laborers, all go to increase the price. The consequence is that the United States are furnishing a greater and greater supply of grain to England every year. In the first nine months of 1878 the amount sent over from this country was 25,112,939 cwts. From the first of May to the first of September we also shipped an average of 3,000 cattle a week to England for food. A high English authority asserts, according to the N. Y. *Herald*, that one hundred English farmers go into bankruptcy every week on account of this importation into England of American beef.

Here, then, we have an outline of England's present condition from the industrial and commercial point of view. After a long era of free trade and free competition, during which the immense wealth of the nation has, owing to the natural action of the system, settled into the hands of one-third of the population, while the other two-thirds have no accumulation but subsist on their daily wages in a hand-to-mouth way, the nation finds itself everywhere losing ground. Its foreign trade drops off, its home markets are hotly contested by foreigners, its farmers give up in despair. There is a terrible depression, and no one can tell how to relieve it. It is not chargeable to an autocratic government, for the people govern themselves. What are the causes? This question is in every one's mouth. The following sentences are clipped from the telegraphic dispatches in the New York papers of March 29th:

"In the House of Lords last night Lord Huntley suggested that an inquiry be made into the depression of commerce and agriculture. Lord Beaconsfield acknowledged that the depression of the agricultural interest was unprecedented, but the depression was anticipated when protection was abolished. It was estimated that the public wealth had diminished $400,000,000, and the area of land under cultivation had diminished 1,000,000 acres.....Lord Beaconsfield believed the inquiry suggested would be without results, but possibly an inquiry as to the change in value of the precious metals and its effect on English industry might hereafter be desirable."

It is evident that no government, however well disposed, can in any great degree alleviate the sufferings of the poorer classes when the causes are such as they are in England, unless they should institute an entire change in the present economic and social systems. At present, competition is free, and the strong and cunning appropriate the substance of the weak. Thousands are thrown out of work and out of food. It is charged that the working classes lack prudence, foresight and proper economy. This is true. As a rule, the English laborer does not care to save money or to lay by anything for a rainy day. So long as his pipe is full and he has his daily beer he cares little for the future. The reported utterance of a Yorkshire miner, "I'd rather earn forty shillings a week and give it away than earn twenty to save," is quoted by an English paper as characteristic of a large class. I have already stated in these papers that the cost of liquor consumed in Great Britain reaches the enormous annual sum of $730,000,000, while the tobacco used adds nearly $100,000,000 to the national expense. In London there is a "Drink Shop" for every 333 persons, and seven in a thousand of the inhabitants are annually apprehended for drunkenness. Taking Great Britain as a whole, one person in thirty-three is a pauper. These paupers are the wrecks of competition. They have given up the struggle and depend on public charity for their daily bread. They are witnesses against the present system.

It is getting to be generally admitted by the English that the population of their island is greater than it can well support, and still it is increasing at the rate of one per cent. per annum. A writer in the *Anglo-American Times* says: "The British Question is not what is to become of Turkey, but what is to be done with the surplus population which inexorable circumstances are displacing." The remedy he suggests is colonization on a grand scale. In a meeting held not long ago at Rochdale, Lord Derby also advised to "relieve the pressure of population in this island by emigration to the United States." This will prove to be only a temporary and superficial remedy.

There is one bright feature in England's present situation, which is, the remarkable success of her Co-operative Stores. We have given so many accounts of these in the AMERICAN SOCIALIST that I need not describe the plan on which they are conducted. But they furnish one good solution of the problem of the equitable *distribution* of earnings. By means of Coöperative organizations the workingmen become capitalists and yet continue to labor. This gives them a decisive advantage over those who continue in the old system. During all the late years of depression and distress we have not heard or read a single word of complaint from among the Coöperators. They are flourishing and declare regular dividends.

Next week I will say something about the condition of France. F. W. S.

(To be Continued.)

In spite of all we have to say about improving the houses and surroundings of the poor, two ugly facts remain: First, the poor are unable to pay for the sweet and airy houses they should inhabit: and, second, the wealthy are not rich enough to furnish such homes as a charity to everybody, without insisting sooner or later on having the power of greatly limiting the number of poor folk born. That is the benevolent despotism that would make you gnash your store teeth. Don't like the idea of it? Then be your own despot, and greatly limit your own branch of the noble family of *Otium cum Dignitate*.

REVIEW NOTES.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES OF NEW JERSEY. Trenton, N. J., Naar, Day & Naar, Printers. 1878.

II.

This report touches briefly or at length upon a great variety of topics. It shows the great need of thorough and reliable statistics concerning all the important interests of the population, and points out the difficulties of obtaining them at the present time in New Jersey. It calls attention to the large numbers of illiterate persons in the State, and advocates more general education. It urges that the employment of children in factories should be more thoroughly regulated, and denounces "the injustice of keeping children from ten to twelve consecutive hours day after day hard at work under all manner of pernicious influences both to mind and body," while "neither education nor the slightest recreation is vouchsafed to afford a modicum of palliation for the wrong." For this evil of grave magnitude it commends "enforced legislation as the only effective remedy," so long "as manufacturers are swayed chiefly by the mere economic aspect of the question, thereby excluding and subordinating the higher considerations of justice and humanity." In its discussion of this subject it even evinces a touch of stirpicultural zeal, saying:

"In some sections of our country it is observable that the barns and out-houses, for the occupancy of cattle and horses, far exceed in dimensions, architecture and interior conveniences the more humble and less pretentious habitations of the family. This excessive partiality for the brute creation is calculated to produce the not very complimentary impression that, with the proprietors of such rural establishments, the welfare of the brutes takes precedence of that of their wives and children. We do not regard these strictures as applicable in any marked degree to New Jersey agriculturists, but it is to be feared there is more or less culpability in all of our rural communities in respect to the subordination of education and robust youthful development, to benefits derived from inhuman coercion of child-labor. The greatest regard is paid by judicious farmers, to the conditions essential to vigorous, healthful growth and muscular development of all animal life. You seldom see a young colt or steer put to toil until they have attained a maturity adequate to all future contingencies.

"*Children and youth, during the period of physical and mental development, should be as nearly exempt from exhaustive labor and study as is consistent with their circumstances and destined avocations.* The character, degree and period for the acquisition of education, must necessarily be regulated to a considerable extent, by the pre-determined vocation of the child. Whatever is to be its calling, however humble, it is best that the education should precede the entering upon the life work. This has always been the practice in the professions as well as in the case of apprentices, and other callings to be assumed in advance of the period of manhood."

* * * * * * *

"This brings us again to emphasize the need of a system of education based upon the moral and physical nature of the human family, adapted to the conditions and necessities of all classes. It is our settled conviction that the only hope of stability for our institutions of government, civilization and industries, lies in intelligence and morality. The basis of these kindred virtues is education, but as this conception is not as deeply wrought in the minds of the masses as its significance and conspicuous bearings exact, there would seem to be a propriety, if not necessity, for having this defective comprehension of an obvious truth, supplemented by coercive measures. We regard the employment of children in any pursuit, without the alternation of education with physical labor, either under the half-time or continuous system of instruction, as a grevious injustice demanding deep consideration and reprobation wherever practiced."

One of the tables given displays the yearly earnings and expenses of 114 families, with the expenses in detail; and upon this table the author thus comments:

"It is hardly necessary to revert to what will be seized upon at a glance, by every thoughtful individual who scrutinizes our tabulations at all, as the most unwelcome truth they reveal, viz.: that the average cost to maintain 114 families, consisting of a small fraction less than six persons, including both heads, exceeds the earnings of the male head of each. Whatever cause or causes occasions this result, it must be contemplated with unfeigned sorrow."

Although New Jersey ranks high as a manufacturing

State, the Report before us directs attention to agriculture as the most promising source of relief to her distressed citizens. It refers in terms of the highest commendation, to the "Board of Aid to Land Ownership," organized in Boston in 1877 to promote associate migration to fertile, unoccupied lands; to aid their development into agricultural townships and homesteads; by these means contributing to a re-distribution of labor, and its diversion from trade and manufacture, when in surplus, to tillage of the earth; gives the results of the labors of this board through its committees to find suitable land for such colonization in the Western States; and urges that the Board should, as it appears at present inclined to do, turn its attention to the Middle States as in many respects offering superior advantages for the attainment of the objects of the Board. New Jersey, for example, has much unimproved land; has a variety of climate and soil; the land is cheap and easily made productive; markets are near; and the Eastern immigrant who should settle there would avoid the great expense of removing his family to the far West.

(*To be Continued.*)

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

[From the New York Sun.]

The astonishing success of the Rochdale enterprise, which began with a capital of seven dollars, and thirty years afterward did an annual business of a million and a-half, has not been overlooked by American workingmen. Numerous experiments in Coöperation have been made, especially in Ohio and Massachusetts, some of which have fully met the expectations of their promoters. On the other hand, many have miscarried; but it is proved by the reports issued from the labor bureaus of those States that failure was in each case chargeable to overt or clandestine divergence from the methods and principles of their Rochdale exemplar.

To such a departure, for instance, from wholesome precedents was due the collapse of the great organization known as the New England Protective Union, which at one time controlled more than four hundred branch stores, and which, starting with a box of soap and a half chest of tea, traded in its best days to an amount ranging from $1,000,000 to $2,000,000 annually. But gradually this association fell into the same mistakes which have been fatal to so many experiments in France. Outside funds were borrowed at high rates of interest; or a controlling share of the capital invested was conceded to non-producers; or the management was intrusted to incompetent persons having nothing at stake in the enterprise; or, worst of all, a violation of the rule to buy and sell for cash was tolerated.

A better prospect of permanent success seemed for a time to be afforded by the more recent attempt at Co-operation in New England, controlled by the organization known as the Sovereigns of Industry. Between 1874, when this association started, and the close of 1875, the number of branches or councils had risen from 33 to 166, while the membership had risen from 3,500 to 20,000. Two years later, however, both the councils and the number of members had diminished by nearly fifty per cent., and a good many failures had occurred in the union stores. Here the goods were not sold at retail prices, the profits being divided at the end of the year, as in the Rochdale scheme; but, as a rule, the sales were made with a small allowance above cost to meet expenses. Of the cases reported, however, some appear to have been notably successful. For instance, the union store at Natick, where all purchases and sales are strictly for cash, paid thirty-nine dollars in ten years by way of dividends on each ten-dollar share, besides the six per cent. required by law. Precisely analogous results are reported from Ohio, according as the associations rigorously adhered to or swerved from the Rochdale model.

Let us look now a little closely at this Rochdale precedent, and see what these methods are whose scrupulous application everywhere insures success. In the first place, there was no admixture of non-producers in the membership, no reliance on borrowed capital. The society was composed originally of twenty-eight flannel weavers, who set out to become their own purveyors. One of the fraternity was placed in the position of salesman, and their scanty stock was stored in a room hired at a yearly rental of fifty dollars. So prompt and profitable, however, was the sale of this initial stock for ready money, that the experiment soon acquired large proportions, and the number of operatives belonging to the society rose to many thousands. It is a remarkable fact that the profits earned on capital in the second year, 1845, were twelve per cent., and that they have never since fallen below twenty-five per cent., ranging from that figure to forty-seven per cent. As early as 1847 there seemed to be a necessity for adding to the provisions sold, cotton and woolen fabrics to a moderate extent; and in 1850 a butcher's shop was appended, followed by a bakery and a coal-yard. Moreover, the Coöperative principle was applied to production as well as distribution, shoemaking, tailoring, and other manufacturing undertakings having been entered upon in 1852. Nor was it long before this workingmen's association set apart two and a-half per cent. of the net profits—which sum now exceeds $5,000 a year—for library purposes.

At Rochdale, as well as in the almost equally notable Association at Halifax, the management is wholly in the hands of those who had previously been wage laborers, chosen by a central committee with reference to their honesty and expertness. A wise precaution is also taken to limit holders of shares in these stores to one hundred of $5 each, and no individual is permitted to represent on voting occasions more than the maximum named. Such a safeguard against combinations to centralize power has been found indispensable. Care has been taken, too, to hinder stockholders from being transformed, through excessive profits, into a class of non-working capitalists. Not more than five per cent. per annum is allowed to be paid as interest on the fixed capital, and after a deduction on this score, as well as for library and other educational purposes, all the rest of the earnings are distributed among the patrons of the stores. This is effected by a very simple expedient. The goods are sold, as we have said, at ordinary retail rates, but every buyer receives a tin ticket on which the amount of his purchases is stamped. The dividend accruing to each customer at the end of a quarter is proportioned to the aggregate sum represented by these tickets.

It is well known that the Rochdale enterprise is not only a financial success of the first order, but has powerfully conduced to the moral melioration of the community. Nor is there any reason why an Association started by twenty-eight poor weavers, who could only amass their small initial capital by weekly installments of a few cents each, should not be reproduced in the United States with equally striking and beneficent results. It only needs that methods and principles whose utility has been so signally demonstrated should be thoroughly understood and faithfully followed.

AN OPTIMIST VIEW.

Vineland, N. J., April 16, 1879.

EDITORS AMERICAN SOCIALIST:—The most generally accepted cause assigned for the the distress in this and other countries is OVER-PRODUCTION by improvements in machinery. In studying this subject the mind naturally reverts to the time when there was comparatively no machinery, and the wonder grows how people then found employment. Yet there were no complaints on this head then.

People have been drawn from their primitive employments to the factories of the present day. They have learned various handicrafts, and brought up their children to practice them. In the course of time some of these crafts have failed, and the surplus hands have been thrown on the world to help themselves as best they may. A man with a special trade is often disqualified by it from turning his hand to the ruder employments. He must have employment at the business he understands or none.

Had it not been for the sudden contraction of the currency, however, we should have heard nothing of over-production and distress. It is true, we should have had over-production here and there; too many shoes, hats, caps, watches; too much food, clothing, or other articles. But this would not have come all at once in a general panic. The idea is absurd. The distress from over-production would have been local and individual rather than general, and would have soon righted itself.

It may be true, as Dr. Ure of London says, that in the near future 100,000 men will do the work now requiring the labor of 12,000,000, but this result will not be attained in a sudden, revolutionary way. The people will have time to accommodate themselves to the change. If no other resource offers, the young men will revert to the PLOW. The land will still remain amid whatsoever changes may happen. It will offer the same resources it always has. It will at least give food for every one, and furnish the material of clothing, shelter, and other necessaries.

But it may be said that labor-saving machinery will be applied to the land also, and thus the last source of employment will be cut off. The capitalists will own the factories and workshops, and the land also will be monopolized by them.

This pessimist view of the progress of the world appears logical, but it proves too much. It presupposes the mass of the people to be perfectly inert, and the silent victims of the class holding property or capital. But such a state of things is not likely to exist. If we suppose labor-saving machinery to have arrived at the perfection implied, both in the factory and on the land, there would necessarily be an immense superabundance of clothing, food and other necessaries; and are we to suppose that the landless portion of the community are ready to lie down and give up the ghost, surrounded by abundance and luxury?

Yet a little while in the progress of invention, and the machinery and motive-powers themselves will become cheapened and brought within the reach of the poorest. The people, individually or associatively, will then become the possessors of the means of their own liberation. It is not likely, bad as things are at present, that the mass of the people will ever be reduced to such a state of penury that they cannot, by joining their small capitals, be able to come into possession of the really useful machinery or implements when they shall be cheapened, as they inevitably will be in the progress of invention. This cheapening process is going on all the while, and before long motive-powers will be distributed over the country and sold for a mere trifle.

Water-power may be brought from a distance and supplied at a cheap rate to parties desiring it. Wind-power is at the command of any one, and may be greatly improved and made more serviceable. As invention simplifies machinery, weaving, knitting, and sewing-machines will come into the hands of the small capitalists. The machinery and materials of building will likewise become cheapened. Tools and machines for making doors, sashes, cornices, for planing, matching, sawing, etc., are already vastly cheapened, and will become more so. The materials used in building are also being modified, and we shall have brick or artificial stone at a cheap rate.

I might go on enumerating every trade as progressing to the same point. Railroads will become cheaper of construction and the cost of locomotion lessened. Not only will this cheapening process go on universally, but the facilities for combination or association will increase. National societies will be formed on a safe basis for various purposes. The telegraph, post and quick transit will work together, and societies containing immense numbers will associate their means.

The great present danger is, that the governing classes of the day, perceiving the evident drift of things, will endeavor by illegal and forcible means to arrest the natural progress of society. If they do, they will be whelmed as the brittle ship when it strikes the rocks.

J. DONBAVAND.

A WORD FOR MEDIOCRITY.

In this "great and glorious country" no privileged class monopolizes the places of honor and emolument. The chief magistrate is elected by the people, and the people's choice is unrestricted. The revered Lincoln was a boatman, and his successor handled the tailor's goose. Our representatives and senators were farmers, merchants, shoe-makers, machinists, etc. Franklin, from a poor "printer's devil," became a philosopher who commanded the admiration of the world; Patrick Henry, from a thriftless grocer, became the most eloquent champion of American liberty; Roger Sherman, from a shoe-maker, became an eminent legislator; Elihu Burritt, so learned, was a workman at the blacksmith forge; the great Daniel Webster "drove the team afield" in his youth.

With such examples before us, it is easy to assume that it lies within the power of every man to select his own career and achieve greatness in it. But consider how many things besides man's own will are concerned in great accomplishments. Our undertakings are limited by our circumstances and social connections; by our capacities; and, most of all, by an overruling Providence

"Which shapes our ends,
Rough hew them as we may."

To say that one can be what he wills is to say that man can always control his circumstances, modify at pleasure his capacities, and work out his destiny independent of any superhuman power.

The perniciousness of this view of life is shown in the disappointments and misfortunes which it occasions. It prompts to undertakings impossible of accomplishment, and hence thousands who might achieve happiness and improvement, if content with the natural and truthful development of their natures, fail of these,

and make woeful shipwreck. One of the worst follies which can possess one is the idea that he has only to choose whether he will be a Cicero in oratory; a Mozart in music; a Michael Angelo in painting; a Newton in science; a Rothschild in wealth.

It is unnecessary to check any natural and healthy ambition. Let every one cherish the desire for mature development—for the highest cultivation of the faculties with which he has been endowed, and cheerfully accept the result, even if it does not place him far above his fellows.

"I hate mediocrity," said a friend not long ago. Let us rather hate the principle which says, "I will be first." That is the great enemy of happiness. Mediocrity is a far better companion.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1879.

We give space in our present number to the call, signed by Joel A. H. Ellis and thirty-five other persons, for "A Philanthropic Convention," to be held in New York City May 21st and 22d, to organize "A Mutual Employment Company" and discuss Socialistic plans and measures.

The event of the past two weeks in this country which has divided public attention with the Negro exodus and the discussions of Congress on the Army Bill, has been the trial of Dr. Talmage, of Brooklyn, on charges of deceit and falsehood, before a body assuming to be the "Court of Jesus Christ." "Spring cleaning" of this sort is imperative in many cases; but it is to be regretted that it should be carried on in a manner to bring reproach and ridicule upon all concerned. No one can read the reports of the trial without getting the impression that the complainants and defendants, judges and counsel, and most of the witnesses, are not at all entitled, by any evidences they give of superior sanctity, to take the initiative in throwing stones at common sinners. Still we love and respect religion and religious people, and believe that more of "the true salt of the earth" exists in the churches than elsewhere.

COMMUNITY OF LIFE.

This expresses our ideal of Communism: not merely Community of property and the aggregation of persons, but *Community of Life!* How much do these words involve! More than external order and the beauties that happy, successful industry can create; more than phalansterian palaces in the midst of paradisaical gardens; more than all the harmonies of the industrial series: they involve unity like that between the Father and the Son; they involve the displacement of every obstruction to fellowship—egotism, envy, and all that is self-seeking; they involve the possession of the spirit that says it is more blessed to give than to receive—more blessed to minister to others than to be ministered unto—more blessed to seek the happiness of others than one's own—in a word, the Spirit of perfect charity, which enables one not only to love his neighbor as himself, but delights in the clear sunlight of truth. The truest friends have no secrets; their hearts are open to one another; their lives commingle and flow together like united streamlets. When such friendship prevails in the Enlarged Home then will be realized our ideal of Communism.

CRITICISM IN RIGHT ORDER.

The following paragraphs occur in Day's Rhetoric. The author is discussing the importance of exercise, as a means of proficiency in the arts of oratory and composition:

Exercise in order to be most useful, must be *critical;* in other words, must be subjected to the inspection of a teacher, or of the performer himself, for the purpose of removing faults and retaining qualities that are good. Such criticism is shown to be necessary at once by the consideration, that, otherwise it cannot be known whether the work has proceeded aright, or in accordance with the principles that should regulate it. It also greatly helps to give the principle exemplified in the exercise a practical, controlling existence in the mind.

The proper time of criticism is after the performance is finished. To write or to speak with a constant reference to criticism at the time is to impose on the mind a double labor or occupation, so that neither part of the work can be done well.—§ 18. * * *

In applying criticism to oratorical compositions the caution here given in regard to the *time* of criticism, needs carefully to be observed; as nothing more fatally chills and enervates inventive and expressive power than the indulgence of an undue critical spirit at the time of composing or speaking.

By the use of these general means the mind is to be trained and developed to the power of expressing all its thoughts in taste or elegance. Such an indirect culture is to be preferred to any immediate endeavor, at the time of composing, to communicate to style this property. In the words of Dr. Whately, "The safest rule is, never, during the act of composition, to study elegance, or think about it at all. Let an author study the best models—mark their beauties of style and dwell upon them, that he may insensibly catch the habit of expressing himself with elegance: and when he has completed any composition, he may revise it, and cautiously alter passages that are awkward and harsh, as well as those that are feeble and obscure; *but let him never, while writing, think of any beauties of style: but content himself with such as may come spontaneously.*"—§ 362.

The doctrine of these extracts brings to view principles that are full of good sense and applicable to education on the largest scale. The processes of personal improvement and race-culture seem to proceed on principles of the same kind with those noted above.

First, there are presented the two elements of *practice* and *criticism*, whose reciprocal action, we know, forms the grand impulse of improvement of every kind. Then as to the time and order of their combination, the rule in rhetoric is also the true rule of life; criticism should follow, not interfere with performance. In order to achieve the best success in action we should have no reference whatever to criticism, in the time of it, but act with the singleness and spontaneity of our first impulse. "To write or speak," says our author, "with a constant reference to criticism at the time, is to impose on the mind a double labor or occupation, so that neither part of the work can be done well." What is thus seen to be true in rhetorical exercise is completely true in action of every kind. There is no greater impediment to free, glorious, moral achievement, than that fear of criticism which is continually coupling action with the idea of right and wrong. It is in this way that legality stands in the way of righteousness. Laws and rules make criticism a continuous thing—the duty of constantly squaring the conduct by certain critical rules. But this imposes a double burden, and "fatally chills and enervates" the power of truthful performance. One thing at a time. Let criticism wait for its turn, and not crowd upon freedom of action. The moralists would hardly dare apply this philosophy to the regulation of life; but it should in truth modify all rules of conduct and be recognized as underlying all culture.

THEOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY.

Why is there so much antipathy at the present time on the part of many people to the subject of theology? May it not be found in the fact that theology by itself represents only the foundation of religion, which is a very good thing so far as it goes, but comparatively useless until it receives its superstructure, sociology. The two "*ologies*," so to speak, were made for each other; "and what God hath joined together let not man put asunder." Theology and sociology were born of the same parents, and however wide apart their births, they were destined, we believe, to dwell together in perpetual harmony. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first great commandment"—*theology.* The second is like unto it: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"—*sociology.* "On these two commandments," says Christ, "hang all the law and the prophets."

Theology treats of the existence, character and attributes of the Divine Being; while sociology treats of human society and seeks its elevation. In Paul's exposition of the gospel of Christ, theology and sociology are beautifully and harmoniously blended, although the terms theology and sociology are not used in his writings, neither are they in the Bible. Theology, we may say, represents the Father and sociology the Son.

Now the Son of God became incarnate that he might socialize and so save his fellowmen, teaching them by precept and example how to love their neighbors as themselves. But the reception which the meek and lowly Teacher met from the Jewish clergy, the murderous persecution and ignominious death he suffered at their instigation, are historical facts that need not be rehearsed. The Jews believed themselves to be heaven's favorites, and were too deeply rooted in their traditions and in their theological speculations respecting the Deity to admit for a moment the idea, that their God could have such a common, laboring man as they regarded Jesus, the son of Joseph, for a partner. This, we repeat, was too much of a dose of sociology for the members of the Sanhedrim to swallow, and so the heavenly representative and founder of Christian Socialism suffered martyrdom, and his blood thereby became the seed of Pentecostal Communism.

Although Christ became a recognized member of the heavenly administration from the fall of the Jewish nation, yet his sociological character was almost completely overshadowed by the theology of the early Christian fathers through the long, dark centuries that followed. Even in the early days of the present century, the second commandment—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"—was scarcely more than a dead-letter theory, while theology was the all-absorbing theme in the religious world, and the clergy were regarded as little less than demi-gods, standing high above their congregations in pinnacle pulpits, dispensing doctrines and decrees to the utter bewilderment of many who were unable to understand their application to present needs.

G. C.

COMMUNITY ITEMS.

ONEIDA.

—The apple-trees have received an unusual pruning this Spring.

—The English sparrows have come. Mr. Thacker welcomes them with his shot-gun.

—The grape vines are uncovered, and the horticulturists are setting stakes for new trellises.

—Railroad companies are discovering that our new coil chain is well adapted to their purpose.

—A Dane who wishes to join the Community writes: "That I am a foreigner I hope will be no hinderness."

—We have only just read "Pinafore." There are said to be 150 troupes in the country now performing this amusing burlesque.

—We have changed the breakfast hour from 7 to 6–30, and the dinner hour from 1 to 12–15, in order to accommodate the industrial departments.

—For a dozen years or more we have sent the bulk of our milk to a factory in this vicinity, buying all the cheese and the greater part of the butter we need. This year we shall keep our milk and make our butter.

—The librarians are making a new catalogue. Of course the books have to be called in. In order to do this pleasantly to both committee and family only one kind is asked for at once: histories one day, novels another, scientific works another, and so on.

—Mr. Clough, the editor of *The South*, a monthly published in New York, made us a short call on Monday. He is engaged, through his paper, in the introduction of the manufactures of the Northern States into Southern markets; and in opening Northern markets to Southern products. His journal also favors the purchase and occupation of cheap and valuable Southern lands by Northern immigrants.

—April is in her most genial mood. Now is the time to escape from the close, steam-heated house and take deep draughts of pure air. When you wake in the morning with that nameless anguish in the solar-plexus which gives a vague sense of misery before consciousness dawns, instead of concluding that you have suffered some cruel wrong and that the world is all awry, try the effect of an hour in the sunshine. A little more oxygen in the brain has sometimes a magical effect in dispelling the most sombre clouds of hypochondria.

—The crow congregation has moved on. Queer things. The first pleasant day, off they went to the North, but when it snowed here again, back they came to their camping ground in the swamp. Now that temperate breezes are blowing once more, they have all flown away to colder climes with the exception of a few scattering non-conformists. Steerforth has an idea that it is one of the idosyncrasies of the crow to be on hand when the soil breaks loose from its frost-fetters to pick up what good things have been preserved through the winter under the snow, before sun and air have caused their decay, thus acting as a sort of scavenger to the grain-fields.

—A respected Shaker correspondent writes:

"Your 'Stories of Poverty' touched my heart. Can't you give us some Stories of Riches? You must have some; your people were not all poor when converted, I think."

Very few of the Community were brought up in afflu-

ence; not so many as were brought up in poverty. The great part were in better circumstances than either affluence or poverty when they were "converted." Three-fourths probably were enjoying the blessed mean of Agar; far above want, but not above the necessity for healthful labor. They had snug homes, and many of them had landed property—farms worth from two to six or eight thousand dollars. Those who did not cultivate the soil as farmers or agriculturists had good trades. They were machinists, architects, millers, printers, wagon-makers and so on—ambitious and successful. The merchant, minister, doctor, lawyer and school-teacher were also represented. They were New England and New York country folks; yeomanry, they would be called in old England. The men had been pillars of church and state in the villages they had left—officers of trust, religious and civil—deacons, magistrates and arbitrators. The women might sit for the picture in Proverbs: "She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands; she looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness; she is not afraid of the snow for her household; in her tongue is the law of kindness," etc., etc. We well remember the bales of home-made blankets, the bureaus of table and bed linen, the boxes of cheese, the firkins of butter, the bags of dried apples, the tubs of maple sugar and casks of syrup, which came with the colony from Northern Vermont several months after our beginning here, and made a deluge of plenty just when the pioneer company were in want of everything. It gave us a lively idea of the thrift and generous provisioning of the families up there.

The class of people we have described are not proud and supercilious, but they have a profound self-respect which would not be increased by wealth, and which is the best sign of good ancestral blood; and the sons of these people would have possessed all the qualities for money-making if they had been educated to think money-making the end of life.

But our first idea in this scrip was to say, that some of our members would have been rich by inheritance, if they had not belonged to the Community. There has been a good deal of ruling in wills against the Community. Doubtless the Shakers have had the same experience. It is but natural that a testator should say to himself, "If I give money to my child or brother or sister or relative of any degree in the Community it will go into the common treasury, and my kith will be no better for it; I will make the inheritance conditional on withdrawal from membership." Quite a number of our people have missed fortune in that way. That is, they have chosen to sacrifice it. One would have inherited a hundred thousand dollars; another gave up a patrimony of nearly half that amount, to unite with us; and several others have taken joyfully the loss of less sums which would naturally have been theirs. No member of the O. C. has ever tried to break a will. We had a little parley several years ago with a Massachusetts town about the property of one of the members. The individual was a widow of fifty years and without any near relative. She had once been insane and the inmate of an asylum. The fit was temporary, but this was ground for the town's assuming a kind of guardianship and objecting to her giving away her estate. She might come back a pauper and be a public burden. Her sanity, however, at the time she joined us and for many years previous was proved to the satisfaction of the judge who presided in the case, and she was allowed to do what she would with her own.

The "Easy Chair" in *Harper's*, for May, takes issue with Mr. Frothingham for the position he assumed in a late sermon on the moral superiority of the pulpit over the press. In that discourse the preacher declares that a newspaper is a great financial overture, depending for its success on the favor of its advertisers and patrons, and therefore it is necessarily and always a good deal of a "trimmer" in matters of principle. "If the pulpit and the press are the two chief direct moral and intellectual agencies in modern civilization," says the "Chair," "they are at least equally exposed to loss of independence by their essential conditions. The prizes of life are generally for conformity, not for dissent; and the clergyman is quite as much at the mercy of his congregation as the editor or proprietor at the mercy of his subscribers. There are, indeed, two kinds of modern journals. .....There is one class which aims to control public opinion, and another which is satisfied to reflect it. Yet neither properly sacrifices independence. The latter does not pretend to independence. It studies the weather-cock and guesses how the wind is going to blow, and speaks accordingly. The former speaks its convictions, but its convictions are the bond of sympathy between its readers and itself. Its sincerity is the secret of its success. Mr. Greeley, in founding and conducting a great paper to prosperity, sacrificed no conviction and retained his independence. He was, in fact, his paper, and no paper was more a teacher and a leader. The principle of the London *Times*, on the other hand, is understood to be mere reflection of the current of opinion for the moment. Whoever is king, the *Times* will be Vicar of Bray. In both these instances the conductors of the papers honestly do what they propose to do, and as an editor is in no more danger of compromising his independence than a clergyman, he is no more in that danger than any other member of a sect or a party. Doubtless, with all men, he is tempted to swim with the current. The men who are not swayed by interest, by prejudice, by tradition, by sophistry, by the love of ease and the comfort of conformity, are very few. But the conduct of a newspaper offers no especial trail to independence, unless a man begins by selling himself to teach and advocate and enforce what he does not believe. There are such soldiers of fortune, the Viscontis, the Sforzas, the Malatestas, of the press. They have no other conviction than that of the necessity of making a living, and of buying the success that is counted in money."

A PHILANTHROPIC CONVENTION.

Friends of Humanity, who believe that our Social System, and methods of doing business may be improved by an organized association of labor and capital, wherein each aids the other in finding constant and profitable employment; who see no good reason why willing, skillful workers should be compelled to stand idle and suffer want, while productive land is not cultivated, abundant material is not manufactured, and numerous factories with machinery and power are not used; who believe that all these may be and should be employed in producing the food, clothing, dwellings, furniture and other articles needed to make mankind comfortable and happy; and that our Social System, which fails to bring these elements together in such order and harmony as to supply the legitimate wants of humanity, but produces instead the deplorable condition of business that now exists in our midst, is too imperfect and incomplete to be used by intelligent men, without an effort to change and improve it:

You are invited to meet with us in a Convention, to be held at Science Hall, 141 Eighth Street, New York, on the 21st and 22d days of May next, at 10 A. M., for the purpose of organizing A MUTUAL EMPLOYMENT COMPANY, and devising, adopting and executing a practical plan by which worthy working people may be furnished with constant employment, and thus be enabled to produce for themselves the articles they need to be comfortable, happy and prosperous.

The following plan for accomplishing this result is also suggested for consideration:

Let the Mutual Employment Company be a business corporation: with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, or more, to begin with; and its shares five dollars each. Let its business be managed by a board of directors, composed of practical, experienced business men, who are devoted to the interests of the cause.

Let it engage in regular legitimate business, carrying on three departments, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Housekeeping, employing to do its work a force of help selected from the fittest of its stockholders who apply for situations; giving preference to the most intelligent, industrious, frugal, moral, and useful, and excluding all those who use intoxicating drinks or tobacco; who are not economical in their style of dress, refined and pleasant in their manners, progressive in their tastes, and in good health.

Let the Company board all its employés in a large UNITARY HOME, fitted up in the most complete manner for producing a pleasant, comfortable home for cultivated, progressive people at the smallest possible cost.

Let this Home contain a Steam Laundry, Bakery, and Bath-room, a Library and Reading-room, well supplied with the best Literature of the day; a Hall for Lectures, Debates, Concerts, Amusements, etc.; and a Nursery and School for children, where they may be properly cared for, educated, and finally learn useful trades. Let the rooms in this home be thoroughly ventilated, neatly furnished, and so arranged as to accommodate both families and single individuals. Let it be surrounded with a beautiful Lawn and Flower Garden, and be made very pleasant and attractive in every respect. Let the price charged for board be only sufficient to pay a five per cent. profit on the net cost; and it will be found that in this way working people of the best class can live much better and happier than they do now, at but little more than half the cost, and that no other establishment can compete in business with this Company, in consequence of the great reduction in the expense of living which is made in this way.

Let each of the employés of this Association be required to SAVE one-fifth of all the wages earned in its employment, and invest this saving in its Stock. This will soon make them all Capitalists and large Shareholders, if they continue in its employment, and will rapidly increase the capital of the Company, and enable it to extend its operations, employ more members, and do more good.

Let the receipts from the business be disbursed as follows: First, pay all bills for material and current expenses except wages; second, pay a dividend of half of one per cent. a month on the Capital Stock; then pay the wages, if the receipts are sufficient to do so; if not, reduce them pro rata to a point where the receipts will pay them; and if there is a surplus of receipts after paying current expenses, dividend and full wages, then increase the dividend and wages pro rata, until they absorb this surplus. Thus the employés will become interested in the business at which they are employed, as their wages depend on the skill and efficiency with which they work, and they receive much the largest share of the profits; the interest of both the laborer and the capitalist becomes mutual; neither party can gain any advantage by oppressing the other.

With selected help, interested in the success of the business, and with their expenses of living reduced at least one-third by the economies of the Unitary Home, this Company can defy competition in any branch of business in which they may choose to engage.

The Agricultural Department would supply the home with meat, vegetables, fruit, milk, butter, eggs, flour, etc., at the smallest possible cost, and the Housekeeping Department would supply all the laborers with board, washing, amusements and home comforts at the minimum price, while the various Departments of Manufacturing—when the Company shall extend its operations to all branches of industry—would supply clothing, furniture, boots and shoes, and all the various articles needed by the members, at the same reduced rates; and a large share of the business of the Association would consist in supplying the wants of its members.

There will be no lack of business or employment until all these wants are supplied. Such a business will never stop. If any employés prove unworthy or unprofitable, let them be discharged; if any are discontented, let them leave and make room for others who would like their places; there will be no lack of worthy applicants for situations.

Let the Company be formed by each member taking one or more Shares of its Stock, according to ability, and when it is organized let it employ active, intelligent agents to hold meetings, give lectures, distribute circulars and canvass for subscriptions to its Stock in all the principal towns in the country, until a Capital of at least one hundred thousand dollars has been raised. This can be done in a short time if it is pushed with energy and skill. When this is accomplished, select a suitable location for building a large manufacturing town—not too far from the centers of civilization—and purchase such a property as is needed. The citizens in the vicinity where it locates will take considerable stock to induce it to settle there; and in these times it will probably be able to find a manufacturing property, suited to its wants, that is not in use, and can be bought for one-third the cost of building it, and a large saving be made in this way. Then build and fit up the Home; settle on the kind of manufacturing to engage in; select and organize the working force and commence business on a scale proportioned to the Capital.

In a few years, with judicious management, the Stock of this Company will be sought for in all parts of the country as a safe and profitable investment; and its Capital can be increased to millions. All legitimate branches of industry can be engaged in successfully; branches will be started in all parts of the country, and its operations enlarged until every worthy man or woman who wishes employment can obtain it at reasonable wages, and an excellent home where they can learn to live in obedience to the laws of nature, and enjoy health, happiness and prosperity by joining this Company.

This, it seems to us, is a practical plan for permanently improving the present unsatisfactory condition of business and the working classes, in which the capitalist, the laborer, the business man and the philanthropist may unite and work harmoniously together for one common end—their own good and that of their fellowmen—with a reasonable prospect of accomplishing their object.

Let us come together and consider this plan or some better one; improve, modify and perfect it if possible; then adopt it, and take hold unitedly and execute it, thus making a practical beginning of the most important work that is to engage the attention of the human race during the next century, viz.: The providing of the poor with the work and wages they need to live comfortably.

JOEL A. H. ELLIS, Gunston, Va.	B. H. LEWIS, Brentwood, N. J.
DAN. F. MORRILL, Vineland, N. J.	WM. W. DAME, " "
E. HOWLAND, Hammonton, "	H. W. BALLARD, Malone, N. Y.
S. M. THOMPSON, Ancora, "	J. L. BALLARD, " "
E. B. FOOTE, M. D., New York.	H. B. BROWN, New York.
JOHN W. ASHTON, Pawtucket, R. I.	T. C. LELAND, "
JOHN GAGE, Vineland, N. J.	E. S. WICKLIN, Gary, Dakota.
T. W. BONNER, Kilmarnock, Va.	MAURICE R. THOMPSON, New York.
N. H. COLSON, Valley Mills, W. Va.	JOHN COSGROVE, Washington, D. C.
L. M. LEE, Stamford, Conn.	K. MEYENBERG, " "
W. V. HARDY, East Concord, Vt.	J. A. ROWLAND, " "
JAMES P. FORBES, Lawton, Mich.	M. B. LAWRENCE, DuQuain, Ills.
N. T. ROMAIN, Thayer, Kans.	G. L. HENDERSON, Postville, Iowa.
J. W. BEACH, Dayton, Ohio.	A. C. HENDERSON, " "
E. WORSLEY, Philadelphia, Pa.	JOHN DURNO, " "
CHAS. A. PILAT, Sing-Sing, N. Y.	LOUIS KNORR, M. D., Savannah, Ga.
EDWARD DANIELS, Wash., D. C.	SADE J. EATON, Clinton, Pa.
W. H. BENNETT, Maysville, Mo.	WM. SAUNDERS, Washington, D. C.

The college fraternities, called Greek-Letter Societies, are getting a little attention now. The oldest of them, Phi Beta Kappa, was founded at the college of William and Mary on Dec. 5th, 1776, the first meeting being held at the

Apollo Hall, of the old Raleigh Tavern. The earliest of what may be called modern Greek-Letter Societies was founded in 1825 at Union College. This was Kappa Alpha, an upper-class society, and the next in order of institution at the same college was Sigma Phi and Delta Phi. Of the other prominent societies, Psi Upsilon, Chi Psi, Theta Delta Chi were organized at Union.

THE GREAT COMMANDER.

[From an Address by Prof. J. R. Buchanan.]

A lovely and holy maiden was the mother of the man to whom the world's highest civilization and highest wisdom bows in homage to-day, he whom Napoleon recognized by the external sense as his superior: "JESUS CHRIST stands single and alone. Alexander, Cæsar, Charlemagne and I have founded empires, but upon what rest the creations of our genius? On force. Jesus alone founded his kingdom on love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him."

What Napoleon perceived as a mere man of policy, philosophers, historians, philanthropists and saints without number have perceived in the sublime moral nature of Jesus; and if I should begin by quoting the opinions of such minds as Newton, Locke, Copernicus, Galileo, Milton, Leibnitz, Da Vinci, Columbus, Davy, Franklin, etc., I might go through the entire roll-call of at least nine-tenths of all the names that have been illustrious in history, and they would say as with one voice that Jesus was the noblest type of humanity this planet has ever borne; and the great majority would go further and say that his nature was divine.

I need not refer to the numberless millions who have sustained the same opinions; I refer only to the best and strongest minds that have ever appeared. And I would say that to any modest and reasonable man this wonderful unanimity is a decisive fact.

The cause must ever be equal to the effect, and it is utterly impossible to produce such an effect—such an impression on this vast mass of mind—without a transcendent moral power. Feeble souls, sciolists and smatterers may ignore this, but every man whose mind and strength of character have produced an impression on society is fully aware of the strength of will and the moral power required to move great masses of men. Hence the greatest and the best of men have been most fully aware of the greatness of Jesus. He came among a brave and strong-minded people, who were too deeply immersed in ignorance and superstition to comprehend him or to tolerate him. The meagre fragments that have come down to us exhibit only this, that he was so transcendently above all that surrounded him as to be worshipped as a God by the semi-barbarians to whom he came, with a fervor and a power that have borne along all the ages the conviction of his divinity, and forced that conviction deep in the mind of the master races of the earth. * * * *

Like the new-risen sun, dimly seen through the dense fogs of the horizon, we recognize him as the luminary of a new day, in whose presence the stars of the sky fade into dimness and disappear. Jesus was the great teacher of the Caucasian race, the dominant race of earth; and although the race has not been able yet to rise from its selfish and warlike life to the highlands of bliss to which he called them up, yet every century brings us nearer to the celestial plane, and as we rise toward his plane we see him more clearly, we appreciate him better, and we begin to know, even as the angels in heaven know, that he is the master-spirit of all real progress, which is *elevation*, and that his grand soul is in contact with all souls that are inspired with that love of humanity which is the only power that can lift men up.

He walked with men and was known of men by his external form; he was known as a power by those who were near him, by those whose bodies he healed, and by those whose souls he lifted up to a diviner life; but he was not comprehended by the age to which he came. He is a living power in contact with all humanity. That Spiritualist who knows only the lowest planes of spirit-life, where physical phenomena abound and business messages mingle the affairs of spirit-life with the cares of earth, is only in the infant school of pneumatology. But they who commune with the world's heroes and sages are really lifted up to a higher sphere of life, while they who have advanced far enough to live in the spiritual presence of Jesus feel in their souls a diviner life and more uplifting power than all the wisdom, power and honors of earth can give.

I am not using the language of blind enthusiasm or fanatical superstition. Slowly and cautiously have I reached these truths, and I seldom pass a week without a practical demonstration, in my friends and myself, that the spiritual power of Jesus is the greatest power within our reach to ennoble our lives. The man of intellectual and selfish life knows nothing and feels nothing of this. The Spiritualist who is satisfied with dreamy speculation, to whom Spiritualism is only an ideal luxury, who has no strong desire to go forth and lift up society, knows nothing of this and never reaches the sphere of Jesus, never comprehends the true heaven.

The speculative Spiritualist, who lives in the sphere of a quiet egotism and believes that he finds God in himself alone, and sees nothing to adore exterior to himself, is of course far removed from the higher spheres and alien to true religion, which impels the soul of man to go forth as far as possible from egotism, into worship, love, labor and heroism—wherever duty calls. Ah, if there were a hundred men on earth now fully imbued with the spirit of Jesus, nations would change their character, wars would cease and prisons fall into decay.

But I proposed to speak of the ARMY OF HEAVEN, and therefore it is that I begin with the Great Commander. And if there are any Spiritualists present who are disposed to neglect or ignore his moral authority on earth, I would call their attention to his authority and rank in heaven. Interrogate the wisest spirits whom you can reach, and you will find that they all recognize his lofty rank and his pervading power. They generally honored and perhaps worshipped him on earth, and in the spirit-world they find they were not mistaken in reference to him. They find their theological doctrines were four-fifths falsehood and delusion, which they outgrow as fast as they can progress, but they find in Jesus all the excellence they ever believed.

THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

C. P. CRANCH.

Fleeter than time, across the continent,
  Through unsunned ocean depths, from beach to beach,
  Around the rolling globe, Thoughts' couriers reach.
The new-tuned earth, like some vast instrument,
Tingles from zone to zone; for Art has lent
  New nerves, new pulse, new motion—all to each
  And each to all in swift electric speech,
Bound by a force unwearied and unspent.
Now lone Katahdin talks with Caucasus,
The Arctic ice-fields with the sultry South;
The sun-bathed palm thrills to the pine-tree's call.
We for all realms were made, and they for us.
For all there is a soul, an ear, a mouth;
And Time and Space are naught. The Mind is all.

—*May Atlantic.*

SPIRITUALISTIC NOTES.

The 31st anniversary of the advent of modern Spiritualism in this country was very generally celebrated on the 31st of March. The first of these anniversaries was held in 1870, in accordance with the suggestion of James Lawrence, a venerable Spiritualist of Cleveland, Ohio. Since then they have been held every year.

In answer to a question, a spirit, purporting to be Shakspeare, recently said: "Every word of King Lear I wrote hearing the words clairaudiently. Coriolanus was another play I wrote after my retirement from London; I wrote this hearing it clairaudiently. The Merry Wives of Windsor was written through my hand in nearly illegible characters."

Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, the leader of the great Brahmo reformation in India, is a Spiritual medium. He recently delivered an interesting lecture on the text, "Am I an Inspired Prophet?" in which he claimed that among the influences which had aided in his present development were very important ones from John the Baptist, Jesus Christ and Paul. He is a man of great purity of life and of wonderful eloquence.

Prof. Pierce, the great mathematician, thinks there may not only be a spiritual body and a spiritual world, but that in that world the spiritual body may be equipped with many more senses than we now use. He says:

"We have here five imperfect senses, and they are as much as we can manage in this terrestrial world. A life-time is required for most of us to become journeyman in the use of either of them, and no man has yet been known who was master of them all. Touch, taste and smell arise from objects in immediate contact with the nerves. Their wide range of perception in different persons, and their great capacity for education, give us undoubted intimation of how much they may be extended in a more delicate and sensitive organization. Their variety of character dependent upon their location in their nervous system, and their apparent difference in the inferior animals, suggest the possibility and probability of increase of variety in the future, when they may be usefully employed. Hearing and sight, by which we communicate with our fellows and perceive distant objects, are conveyed by means of vibrations. Auditory vibrations may not be oftener than ten in a second, or they may be as many as twenty thousand. Visual vibrations, on the contrary, are not less than four hundred millions of millions in a second, and may be as many as eight hundred millions of millions. Between these two limits what a vast range of untried perception! There is ample room for more than forty new senses, each of which might have its own peculiar effect upon the nerves of the observer, and give a corresponding variety of information and opportunity for scientific study, for the invention of strange varieties of microscope, telescope and spectroscope, to strengthen the new senses for beautiful art, and for the development of the grand or lovely forms of poetic fancy and imagination. Such is the glory of the intellectual future life naturally suggested by Christian philosophy. How infinitely grand in comparison with the elemental joys presented by other forms of religion! It is the natural and reasonable expansion of the ideal development, which began with the nebular theory. Judge the tree by its fruit. Is this magnificent display of ideality a human delusion, or is it a divine record? The heavens and the earth have spoken to declare the glory of God. It is not a tale told by an idiot signifying nothing. It is the poem of an infinite imagination signifying immortality."

The new Syndicate has surprised Secretary Sherman by subscribing for $150,000,000 four per cent. bonds. Owing to a delay in the transmission of its dispatch the Syndicates receive only $111,000,000 on its bid, $39,000,000 having been taken by other parties prior to the large subscription. Mr. Sherman won't let the bankers have his $40,000,000 of funding certificates. He claims they were intended for popular subscription and not for absorption by the banks. Encouraged by his past success the Secretary has made a call for $160,000,000 of the 10-40 bonds. To make things easy in private affairs men in debt and carrying mortgages ought to have ways of refunding their indebtedness and at lower rates of interest.

WOMAN'S TOPICS.

One of the most flourishing shoe-stores in Cincinnati is managed entirely by two young women.

The late Princess Alice, daughter of Queen Victoria, was a working member of a Woman's Union.

Miss L. C. Allen has been elected Professor of Domestic Science in the Illinois Industrial University.

Philadelphia has the oldest and most popular institution for the medical education of women in the world.

Miss Orme, of London, sister of the wife of Professor Masson of Edinburgh, and her partner, have a large legal business, though they are not allowed to plead in court.

A new law has been passed by the Massachusetts Legislature securing to women the right to vote for members of the School Committee. It passed both Houses by overwhelming majorities.

Philadelphia is the paradise of women. There are forty female physicians in full practice in and about the city, ten artists and one sculptor. Of printers, school and music teachers there is a multitude; of lady clerks and attendants in shops and stores, an army; of editors, correspondents, novelists, historians and scientists of the gentler sex, in this city alone, the roster would be a revelation. Among lecturers, preachers and ministers we merely mention Lucretia Mott, Hannah Withal Smith, and Anna Dickinson. The stage, the opera, art in flowers, lace, wax, costumes and decorations are largely represented by the women of Philadelphia. Even partial data prove a vast amount of female talent in many of the employments supposed to be limited to men. Opportunity is only necessary to attract thousands of candidates for occupation.—*Exchange.*

Lillie Devereaux Blake thus keenly criticises the late meeting of the "Sons of New England" held in New York on "Forefathers' Day:

"In point of fact these 2,000 men were half women; of the 101 persons who landed from the Mayflower only forty-one were men, and the hardships, the sufferings, the devotion of these pilgrim mothers form the most touching part of that romance of the landing of the Pilgrims. It was the wealthy wife of Edward Winslow whose money enabled him to embark in the Mayflower, while the fair Rose Standish, who left a noble home to share the hardships of her husband, deserves a gentle remembrance from all who honor womanly fidelity. Mrs. Carver, who was one of the first victims of the cruel winters, had nerved her husband to the heroism of seeking freedom in a foreign land, while to the sterling qualities of Ann Brewster the colonists owed much of their care and energy. Yet not one of those heroines had the slightest mention from the men who assembled to do honor to the memory of that handful of brave men, and women equally brave: women who, indeed, sacrificed more than their husbands, inasmuch as home and home comforts are dearer and more important to women than to men, while their frailer natures cause them to suffer more in enduring hardships than their more stalwart companions.

"They were all forgotten, however, since women count for so little in the public estimation of men, though important enough in their private lives! Not only were these grandmothers of a noble race ignored, but the great women of to-day, their worthy descendants, were unmentioned. Invitations were sent to all the distinguished New England men to take part in the feast, but the daughters of the Pilgrims were not noticed. No woman, whatever her high achievements, had any recognition. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Lydia Maria Child were not included among the representatives of literature: Harriet Hosmer had no word of honorable mention in art, and even 'Gail Hamilton,' who certainly deserved a seat beside the brother-in-law whose cause she has so ably defended—even she had no invitation.

"The women who, in the past, by their wealth and devotion, founded the Plymouth colony; the women who, like Abigail Adams and Mercy Warren, adorned by the luster of their virtues the history of New England; the women whose genius to-day carries its fame to lands which never heard of most of the men who took part in this dinner; all were forgotten, and only as a side-show was a handful of well-dressed ladies permitted to look on, while men ate and drank and lauded their own and their male ancestors' virtues. Thus did 'the Sons of New England honor Forefathers' Day,' in the very name of the feast insulting the daughters of New England and the memory of their foremothers."

A San Francisco correspondent of the *Woman's Journal* makes the statement and supports it with a strong array of facts, that "if the exact truth could be reached, the manufacturers, farmers and householders of California would be found almost unanimously in favor of the Chinese now in the country, and of having the supply kept up to the present number."

General Fremont finds Arizona a very arid Territory, and he very naturally wants to secure a little more humidity. This he proposes to do by having the Government cut through a low-lying deposit brought down by the Colorado River, and thus let the Gulf of California into a dry interior basin, some 130 miles long by 30 miles in width, and once a

part of the Gulf itself. A Territory whose annual rain-fall is scarcly a third of what we have in New York ought to have a body of water to look at at least.

ONE THING AND ANOTHER.

Three hundred Kentucky mules have enlisted for the Zulu war.

"'Pinafore' prospers," says the critic, "even when played exceedingly ill."

Parole, an American six-year old, went faster than any British horse, and so took the Newmarket Handicap, April 16.

In Germany they send live animals by post—as many as 40,000, not counting bugs—are sometimes sent in a single year.

The distress among the miners in the North of England is having the effect of sending many off to the United States and the colonies.

The Democrats in Congress don't quite want to have it go out that they intend to dry up this Government if the President vetoes their political legislation.

The Talmage trial has progressed so far in refinement and interest as to have a little side-show of fisticuffs among the spiritually-minded present. Fact.

William Simpson, a prosperous New York pawn-broker, died lately, and it is found that he left the name of being a fair, kind-hearted man, and by no means hard "uncle" to deal with.

Charleston, Mobile, and Galveston, each with a population of about 30,000 inhabitants, and with not the best harbors in the world, are trying to live by handling the cotton of the South.

The fact is, the merchants of New York and other large places get more silver than they know what to do with. The banks won't take it, and so they have to sell it at a discount.

The latest improvement in the arrangement of school-rooms is to have the teacher sit behind his pupils. This relieves thirty or forty children of the arduous labor of keeping an eye on the master.

A company is forming itself in New York City with a capital of $150,000—one half of which is already subscribed—for the purpose of putting up a vast tenement house modeled after the Peabody houses in London.

It is still necessary to asperse Mr. Tilden in every way possible—he is that dangerous to the Republicans and likely to be made President in 1881. His paralysis is of the kind that makes a man as tough and supple as an acrobat.

Why is it that progress has so much about it that always seems like the upburst of nether fires and hell? Is it not because your religion has identified itself with everything stationary and has always refused to let things go ahead?

Dr. I. I. Hayes, the arctic explorer, is working in the New York Assembly to get a bill passed for tunneling the Hudson river between New York and Jersey cities. The proposed tunnel will be for the use of all roads centering in those cities.

France and England don't know what they are going to do with the Khedive yet. France wants to tell the old man at Constantinople of him and have him removed. The Sultan could do that. He has said to the Khedive, "You are a bad boy, but I won't remove you."

Just keep your eyes open and see what kind of Republicans are clamoring to have Grant President again. Is it that sort which put the party to shame for its corruption, and set us on the stool of repentance? It may not be so, but it is well enough to have an eye open.

The daughters of the late Horace Greeley say in a card, that the income from their respective estates has doubled within the past year, and chiefly through the "advice and good management" of one "who has been unjustly accused of squandering what he has fostered and preserved."

That mixed occupation of Roumelia has had to be given up before it could be put into execution. The latest proposition is that the present Russian occupation shall continue a year longer. Meantime the Roumelians will become less and less inclined to have the Turk for a master again.

The Government won't save only one per cent. by refunding the 10-40 bonds, as they bear only 5 per cent. interest. The option to redeem any of the remaining 6 per cents. does not mature until the year 1881, when the planets and comets and prophets will, no doubt, make *pi* of this world.

The Government of Mexico has made a contract for the laying of a submarine and land line of telegraph from a Gulf port of the United States, along the Mexican coast, touching at various Mexican ports, and passing by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the Pacific coast, where it is to terminate.

Professor S. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia, has demonstrated, in a paper read before the National Academy of Sciences, that there is an exact Relation of Neuralgic Pain to Storms and the Earth's Magnetism. That is why your whole spirit seems to ache on a bad day and when "the wind is in the east."

We talk about the plantation manners of Southern Democrats. But do you recognize that Zachary Chandler's late speech on the Jeff. Davis question was a piece of moral bullying as tall as a liberty pole? Why, it surpassed the effort of any Finneyite laboring to bring a sinner under conviction.

If Beaconsfield and the Queen think they are going to rule India without taking Parliament into the partnership, John Bull will make a big fuss. The Viceroy of India has been sending a secret dispatch to the Queen costing 1,100 rupees, and the Englishmen want to know what that means and what it is all about.

The Presidents of the four trunk railways have announced their determination to enforce tariff rates on East-bound freight on the basis of twenty cents a hundred for grain from Chicago. They have again affirmed their faith in pools, and have confirmed the Chicago arrangement for a Joint Executive Committee.

The exodus of the negroes from Texas, Kentucky and Tennessee began as early as 1871. In 1875 it was observable, setting toward Kansas. It is still going on, though less conspicuously than some time ago when its unusual volume excited alarm. No less than 6,000 colored emigrants had arrived at St. Louis from the South not long ago.

In *Harper's* for May, William Winter's illustrated article, "Stratford-upon-Avon," does as much, perhaps, for the dramatist's birth- and resting-place as pictures can do. All very interesting, but we must always remember that London was the poet's standing-place and environment when he dipped into the thick of life and had an illumination for all men.

Mr. Blaine has been to the trouble to tell us that our soldiers, whose possible presence at the polls the Democrats feel so badly about, are very few in number and a great way off when much voting is done. There are no soldiers in Virginia, or Kentucky, or Tennessee, or Missouri, or Mississippi, and only 30 in North Carolina, 120 in South Carolina, 57 in Arkansas, 32 in Alabama, and 239 in Louisiana.

The malcontents in Europe are making it lively for the crowned heads. On the morning of the 14th, Solovieff, a retired functionary of the Russian Ministry of Finance, shot at the Emperor Alexander four times while the latter was walking near the palace, but did his Majesty no harm. This is the third attempt on the Emperor's life, and the thirtieth one that has been made on some royal personage within thirty years.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has a little bill of $4,000,000 which it is trying to collect from the County of Alleghany, Penn., for damages done the road in the Pittsburgh riots of 1877. The County is trying to shove this off upon the State at large. The beauty of the situation is that Pittsburgh and the road have had a long feud, and that the people of that city wouldn't, it is alleged, raise a hand to save the property of the company from the rage of the rioters.

Every woman who is a citizen of Massachusetts, twenty-one years of age, and possessed of the other qualifications of male voters, can now vote in school meeting for the election of school committees. The same is true of women in New Hampshire and Kansas. In these two New England States the work of teaching is mostly in the hands of the women. In 1870 New Hampshire had 2,600 female teachers to 510 male, and Massachusetts had 5,387 female to 753 male.

The miners of the West and everywhere are having another of their mad rushes for a new mining region. This time it is for Leadville, a point somewhere near Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Black Hills have become as dull as a meeting-house on a week-day, and the new town is increasing in population at the rate of 800 a week. Ore reputed to be worth $6,000 a horse-load is enough to send the whole mining world a tumbling into the new El Dorado.

The municipal authorities of Newport, Rhode Island, thought it would be a handsome thing to banquet themselves and the officers of three British men-of-war that anchored in their beautiful harbor last year. The tax-payers were not invited to eat and drink too; so they got a judge, Chief-Justice Durfee, of the Supreme Court, to say that the said municipal officers should pay the cooks and fiddlers $2,900 out of their own pockets, or else let the cooks and fiddlers go unpaid.

General Richard Taylor, son of old Zachary Taylor, and best distinguished as the Rebel General Dick Taylor, the last to lay down his arms at the close of the war, died recently in New York. A true Southern man; brilliant, well-informed, something of a gab, cheerful, notwithstanding he had been ruined by the war; an unreconcilable and old fogy with many attractive personal qualities. Mr. Evarts, our present Secretary of State, and Mr. Fish, our late one, were among the pall-bearers.

The late Madame Bonaparte was perfectly adequate to the care of herself. She had often been invited to meet that magnificent bore, Madame De Staël, but always refused, and when this was remarked upon, she said: "O, De Staël was an autocrat in those days, whose word once uttered was law for the whole Continent and for all time. If one in meeting her did not invent some witticism, or some startling profundity out of hand, his doom was sealed. Therefore, I concluded not to ask her for a patent of my intellectual nobility."

Mr. Lamb, the New York Superintendent of Savings Banks, makes a frank and encouraging report. The number of depositors in these institutions is about 1,000,000; and the cash deposited is $330,000,000. The twenty-nine savings banks that have failed in the past eight years have paid the depositors, in spite of the ruinous expense of receivership, 55 per cent. of their money. The whole loss for the last five years, being the years since the panic, does not reach by Mr. Lamb's estimate two per cent. of the aggregate deposits.

A Congressman with an idea into him now puts it into shape of a bill and thrusts it into a box, where some committee gets it and considers it, and maybe reports it back for what is called a "third" and final reading and passage. The old way was to have every bill presented to the House first, where it passed a first and second reading; that is, its title was read aloud twice by the clerk, and then the bill was referred to a proper committee. This new way is a slip-shod way, and does not, we judge, seem good to the press of either party.

Mr. Grant Allen, B. A., has written a book, "The Color-Sense; Its Origin and Development," all to show that the race has had to grow into a perception of color. "The primitive man is assumed to have been totally destitute of the sensation of color. In the progressive education of the organ, three chief colors have been found in the order of their refrangibility, red, green and violet.....The argument for this view of the gradual development of the color sense is mainly of a philological character, and derived from the language of the Vedas, the Hebrew Scriptures and the Homeric Poems."

From Capetown, April 1, we learn that the column for the relief of Colonel Pierson started for Ekowe on the 28th of March. It is composed of 6,000 men, 2 Gattling guns, 2 cannon, 113 wagons and 56 pack mules. All was going on well up to the 30th. Colonel Pierson on that day signaled from Ekowe that he could see the head of the column intrenching on the Amatudula river. On the 27th he had signaled that 200 of his men were either ill or wounded, and that only 600 of his garrison would be able to assist the relieving column, for which 35,000 Zulus were lying in wait. Col. Wood attacked Umbeline's stronghold on the 28th and captured a lot of cattle. Next day the Zulus attacked Col. Wood's camp. The honors were about even.

General Bragg, of Wisconsin, has made another sensation: this time by proposing an amendment to the Executive Appropriation Bill abolishing the Board of Southern Claims Commission. His amendment, however, was not adopted. This Commission was created by Congress in 1871 to report upon claims to loyal men of the South for property taken or destroyed during the war. The number of claims filed before the Commission has been 14,000: of this 5,000 have apparently been abandoned, as no evidence has been filed in support of them; 6,000 have been passed upon, and 3,000 are still pending. The investigations in regard to these last are now about completed, and the Commission will report them all before its life expires by limitation of law next March.

Here is an "Apple Blossom," by Dora Reade Goodale, an old girl not twelve years of age when it was written:

"In Spring we note the breaking
Of every baby bud,
In Spring we note the waking
Of wild flowers of the wood;
In Summer's fuller power,
In Summer's deeper soul,
We watch no single flower,
We see, we breathe the whole!"

And here is something by a young fellow of thirty-eight. The one has about as much nutritious corned-beef and cabbage for the intellect as the other:

"The day is fine
As mulled wine
In gray and chill November;
'Tis ripe and prime and yellow
Arched with blue, and mellow
As any in September.

"It is so freely poured,
As from a giant gourd,
I'll snatch a bit before it onward rushes—
Perchance a hint
Of love, or glint
Of light which on the mountain blushes."

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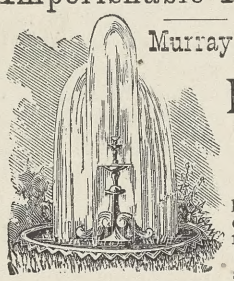

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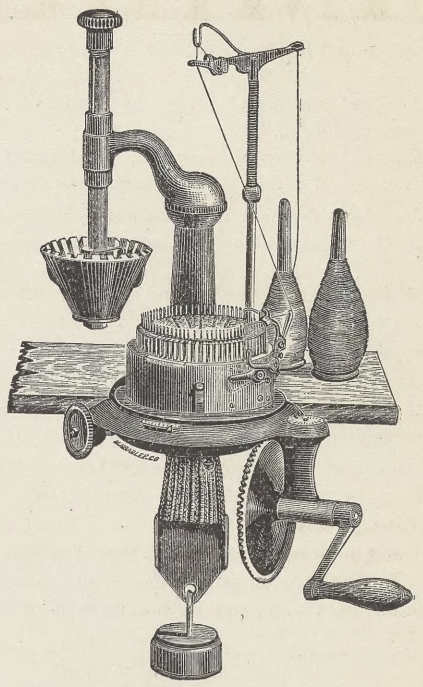

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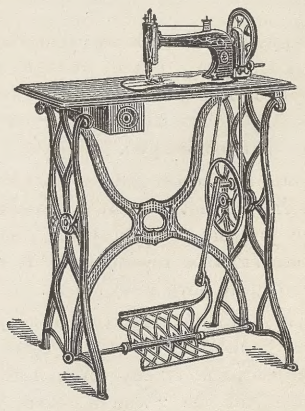

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